



Director of Central Intelligence

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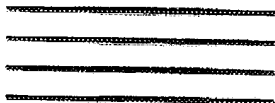


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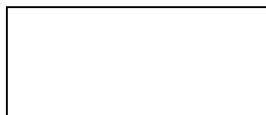


*Selected Items From the
National
Intelligence
Daily*

Tuesday, 7 May 1996



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CPAS SIFTNID 96-107C
7 May 1996

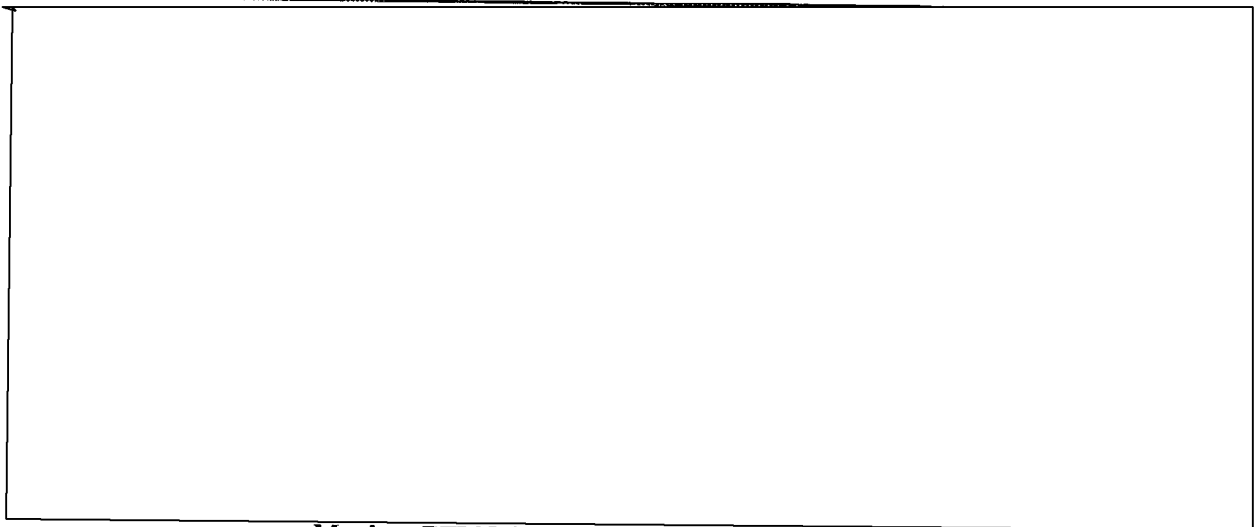
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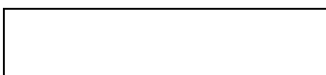
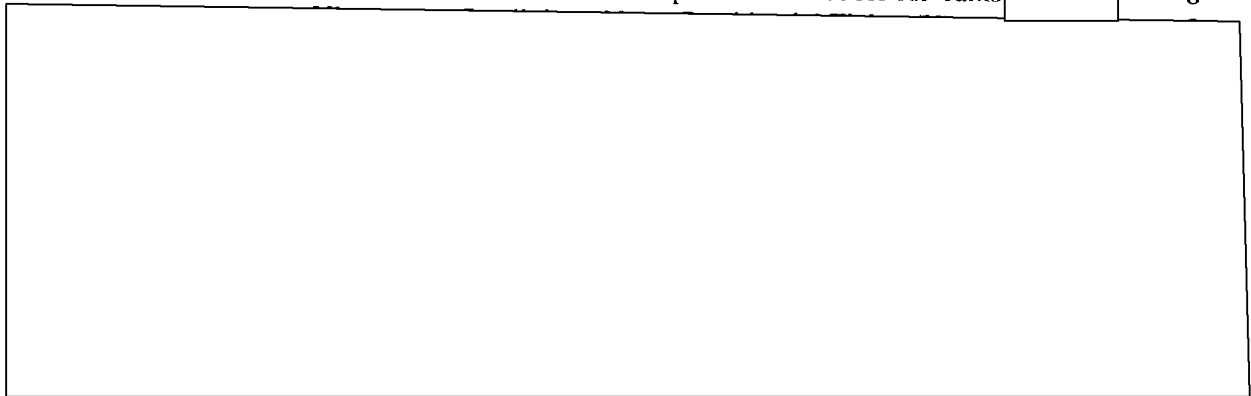


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AMERICAS (continued)

Mexico:

EZLN Convictions Spell More Trouble for Talks

Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) leader Marcos yesterday called the sentencings by a Chiapas judge of two alleged EZLN members to stiff prison terms "an act of war" and said the group will reconsider its participation in peace talks with the government.

- According to a press report, the convicted Zapatistas were among some two dozen arrested during the government's offensive in February 1995; they were not eligible for an amnesty subsequently offered to rebels who remained at large.
- Attorney General Lozano says the judgments could be overturned, *suggesting Mexico City is looking for a legal formula to limit the fallout on talks.* In a separate case last October, a Mexico City judge dismissed charges against an alleged rebel leader at the Attorney General's request, averting a potentially serious setback to the peace process.

Reversal of the judgments probably would ensure that the rebels, who retain only limited military capabilities, will agree to resume talks next month, as scheduled. The sentencings, however, have added to rebel distrust of government intentions that has already slowed talks.

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7 May 1996